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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 27 | Min 22 | Humidity 93% Light rain Sensex 82,059 | Nifty 24,945 | Gold 93,475 | Silver 95,682 | Dollar 85.43 | Euro 95.94 | GBP 114.07

PAGES 4 & 5

Dreadful drench

- Traffic stops as major roads waterlogged in IT corridor
- Homes, stadium, orphanage flooded
- City's pain points
- **Rain in a nutshell:** 3 deaths, damage around B'luru

Nearly 45% of govt school classrooms in state crying out for repairs

ON SHAKY FOUNDATION

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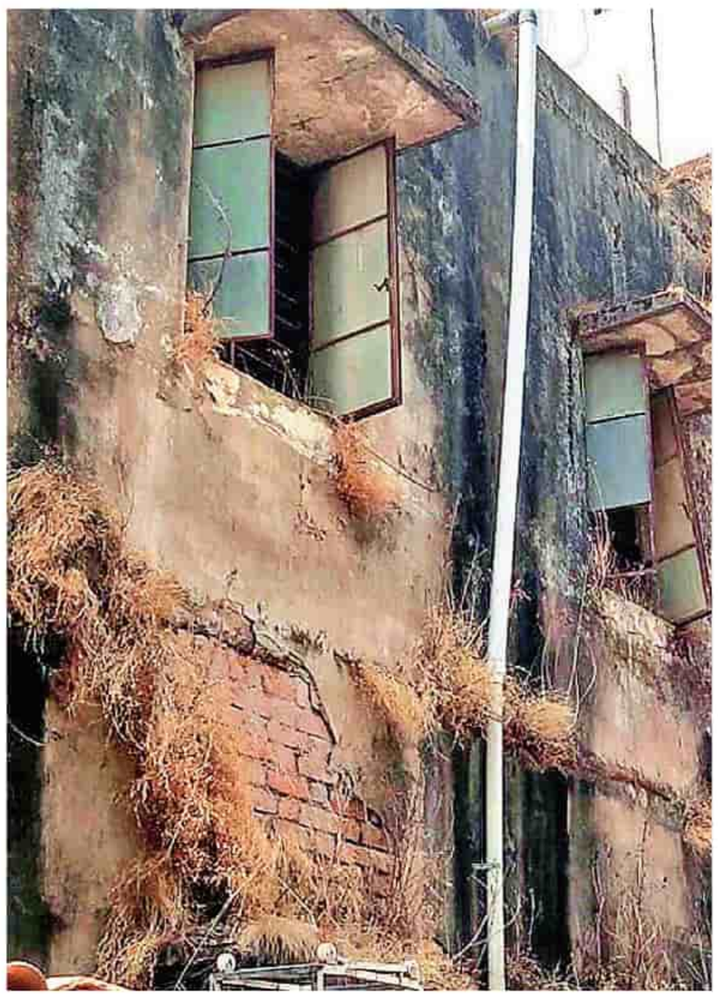
Around 45.4% of classrooms across Karnataka's government schools are in a state of disrepair and urgently require major maintenance, raising alarm as the monsoon approaches. Karnataka has a total of 46,755 government schools, including 41,905 primary and 4,850 high schools. Out of these, 21,255 school classrooms urgently require major repairs.

The Education Department has released Rs 137.97 crore over the past three years for school repairs. In the last two years alone, Rs 118.50 crore was disbursed, resulting in the repair of 10,962 classrooms. In addition to regular funding, the government undertook repair work worth Rs 43.01 crore on 710 classrooms under the Chief Minister's Special Grant. However, construction work on nearly 10,000 classrooms is still underway.

District-wise data highlights Kalaburagi has the highest number of classrooms in need of repair at 1,898, followed by Mysuru (1,716), Raichur (1,406), and Dakshina Kannada (1,323). Experts suggest that repair work conducted during the summer vacation every year could ensure that schools are ready and safe before the new academic year and the onset of rains. However, the Education Department cites lack of adequate funding as a reason for delays, often appealing to the government for more resources.



Poor workmanship

Questions have been raised about the quality of repair work in government schools. Despite annual repair projects and consistent release of funds, the need for repairs has been steadily increasing. Experts and stakeholders doubt the workmanship and durability of the repairs, as well-executed repairs should last several years without recurring issues.

Funding accountability

Though funds are released by the Education Department, the actual

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

SOAK STORY

As CCB office in Shantinagar gets flooded, concerns over ₹27 lakh monthly rent and worry about what future holds

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The heavy rains that lashed the city overnight once again exposed the poor infrastructure and lack of preparedness in critical government offices. The Central Crime Branch (CCB) office, now operating from a rented building in Shantinagar, was flooded following the downpour, raising serious questions about the suitability of the premises, which reportedly costs the government around Rs 16.5 lakh per month in rent.

The CCB was shifted to this location after its previous office in Chamarajpet was deemed unfit for use due to its dilapidated condition. However, the move seems to have brought no relief, as the current

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Lyric lab

The Indian Music Experience Museum is organising a unique masterclass titled 'Rhythm and Poetry', led by Gubbi—a multilingual rapper and one of Bengaluru's pioneering voices in hip-hop.
Where: Indian Music Experience Museum, JP Nagar;
When: May 25, 11 am

02 Law scope

As the political momentum around the Uniform Civil Code gathers pace once again, with the recent Uttarakhand legislation in the news, BIC is organising a session revisiting the debate from a constitutional, feminist, and social justice lens.

Where: Bangalore International Centre, Domlur;
When: May 21, 6.30 pm

03 Puppet tales

The Museum of Art and Photography is organising The Scrappy Puppet Tales workshop, where kids will become puppet creators using all sorts of cool scrap and junk. It's a hands-on adventure where imagination takes centre stage.

Where: Museum of Art and Photography, Ashok Nagar;
When: May 19 to May 24

04 Gender chronicles

ECTA and Tritiyo Sutra Production, in collaboration with ENAD Bengaluru, are presenting Shikhandi, which powerfully explores the concept of gender identity and vengeance, revealing the deep-rooted gender politics at play in Mahabharata.
Where: Jagriti Theatre, Whitefield;
When: May 31, 3.30 pm and 7.30 pm

05 Frame of mind

Select bookshop is organising a talk by Giridhar Khasnis, an art curator and writer.
Where: Select Bookshop, Brigade Road;
When: May 24, 4.30 pm

Jnanabharathi Campus to be a heritage site?

As campus is home to many trees, it is crucial to preserve it, says Forest Minister in letter demanding proposal for heritage site declaration under Biodiversity Act

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Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar B Khandre has instructed the Additional Chief Secretary of the Department of Forestry, Ecology and Environment to submit a proposal for declaring the Bangalore University Jnanabharathi Campus as a heritage site under the Biological Diversity Act (BDA), 2002.

The step is being taken after various proposed development activities have been declared in the recent past, posing a threat to the campus's biodiversity.

The proposal highlighted that there are many large trees on the Bangalore University Jnanabharathi Campus, and underscored the department's responsibility in safeguarding its rich biodiversity. It emphasised the need to protect the campus's green belt, ensuring its preservation for future generations and contributing to the city's environmental sustainability. "However, efforts are being made to cut down these trees to undertake various construction works, it is hereby directed to submit a proposal in the file, if it is possible to declare this green campus of Bangalore University as a heritage site under the Biodiversity Act, 2002," read the letter by the Minister. The Minister also clarified that the step is being taken after an appeal from environmentalists to protect biodiversity on the campus.

Notably, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivkumar's pet project – South Asia's tallest skydeck, is also planned on 25 acres of land at the campus that is teeming with biodiversity.

Experts said that if taken forward, the move will ensure that the educational campus does not turn into a tourism center

"The Jnanabharathi campus is Bengaluru's biggest lung space, in 2002-2003, we planted seven lakh trees belonging to 700 species, which are today acting as the biggest carbon sink"

–Dr AN Yellappa Reddy, an environmentalist

According to renowned environmentalist Dr AN Yellappa Reddy, who created the forest cover and bioparks on the campus nearly two decades ago, all the proposed development projects on the campus, including the skydeck, should be scrapped and the campus should be declared a heritage site on the lines of Nallur Tamarind Grove in Devanahalli.

"The Jnanabharathi campus is Bengaluru's biggest lung space. In 2002-2003, we planted seven lakh trees belonging to 700 species, which are today acting as the biggest carbon sink," he said. He highlighted that contour bunds were also created to preserve rainwater on campus, which has led to an improvement in the groundwater table by nearly ten feet. "The campus is home to hundreds of birds and other flora and fauna. All these measures were then taken with public contribution, and all native species of the Western Ghats are growing ex-situ on the campus. It is only apt that the campus is declared a heritage site," he said.

Experts said that if taken forward, the move will ensure that the educational campus does not turn into a tourism center.

"Plantation across the campus was taken up systematically more than two decades ago. A yoga center proposed a few years ago was vehemently opposed to ensure that the green cover is intact," said Dattatreya Devare, trustee of Bangalore Environment Trust, noting that today, the native forest on the campus, along with its biodiversity, are thriving, and declaring it a heritage site is a step in the right direction.

Under the Biodiversity Act (section 37), areas of biodiversity importance can be notified as heritage sites, and measures can be taken for the management of such sites. Such areas are notified based on the recommendations of the State Biodiversity Board.

Vijay Nishant, a member of Bengaluru's Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC), said that the benefits of biodiversity parks on the campus and ecosystem services provided to the environment and society are unmatched. "BMC has been looking at analysing ecosystem services that the Jnanabharathi forest provides to the citizens of Bengaluru. These urban mini-forests should be conserved and not subjected to any developmental activities. In case a developmental activity cannot be avoided, it should be done vertically. We will soon meet the BU administration to discuss the living resources on the campus and the important role they play as Bengaluru's lung space," said Nishant.

NMC issues show-cause notices to state medical colleges

The National Medical Commission (NMC) has issued show-cause notices to all government medical colleges in Karnataka, citing non-compliance with prescribed guidelines. The move has surprised the state government, especially at a time when it is pushing for an increase in undergraduate medical seats.

Karnataka is home to reputed institutions like the Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI), which consistently attracts students who forgo centrally allotted National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) seats to secure admissions. However, the NMC has now flagged compliance issues across all 22 functioning government medical colleges in the state, including BMCRI. Each academic year, the NMC mandates medical colleges to upload their Letter of Permission (LoP) on its official website. In April this year, the Commission also sought detailed information on the infrastructure and facilities available at each college. According to state officials, all government medical colleges are equipped with necessary infrastructure and medical service tools. However, newly established colleges are facing a shortage of faculty and support staff.

"We had earlier followed the NMC-2020 guidelines. However, as per the 2023 norms, new appointments have been proposed, and we have sent a requisition to the Finance Department for clearance. Once approved, the staffing shortage will be addressed," said a senior official.

Manipal hospitals' surgery milestone

Manipal Hospital recently marked a milestone of over 1,000 robotic spine surgeries performed at the Manipal Institute of Robotic Spine Surgery (MIRSS). The event also focused on the growing burden of back pain and spinal conditions, and how robotic technology is changing spinal care through precision and faster recovery.

Amongst the patients was 41-year-old John Peter, a travel entrepreneur from Bengaluru, who started experiencing lower back pain in 2020, which later disrupted his routine and work.

After consulting Dr S Vidyadhara, Chairman and HOD Spine Surgery at Manipal Hospital, Old Airport Road, he was diagnosed with disc prolapse and spinal canal stenosis, along with nerve compression at L4 S1. He initially chose conservative treatment, but his symptoms returned in early 2025, making surgery necessary.

On April 5, 2025, Peter underwent robotic spine surgery involving decompression and spinal fusion. He was discharged in two days, and is undergoing physiotherapy.

"The pain disrupted my life—I had to stop riding and rely on others. Now, as I recover, I'm hopeful I'll be back on the road soon," said Peter.

Woman killed after being run over by bus at Satellite Bus Stand

A 58-year-old woman died tragically after being run over by the rear wheels of a bus early Monday morning at the Tamil Nadu platform of the Satellite Bus Stand on Mysore Road, under the jurisdiction of Byatarayanapura Traffic Police.

The deceased has been identified as Krishnaveni, a resident of 12th Cross, Hegganahalli, Peenya 2nd Phase. Krishnaveni had recently moved to Bengaluru with her family and had traveled to Tamil Nadu to attend a relative's funeral.

She boarded a night bus back to Bengaluru, which reached the bus stand around 4.30 am. As it was raining, she got off the bus and was still near it when the vehicle suddenly started moving. She lost balance and slipped under the rear wheels, resulting in her death on the spot.

When Krishnaveni did not return home, her worried family members tried contacting her.

A passerby heard her phone ringing near the accident site, picked it up, and informed the family of the tragedy.

Byatarayanapura Traffic Police visited the spot, conducted an investigation, and registered a case. Further legal action is underway.

Ola techie dies by suicide

A 24-year-old machine learning engineer at Ola's AI unit in Koramangala, was found dead in what is being suspected as a suicide due to extreme work pressure. A graduate of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), he had joined the company in August 2024.

Sources suggest that the deceased, identified as Nikhil Somavanshi, had been under intense stress, reportedly handling the workload of multiple employees who had resigned earlier. Allegations have also surfaced against his manager in the US, Rajkiran Panuganti, who is said to have harassed team members, leading to a high attrition rate.

Nikhil, who was earning Rs 9.30 lakh per annum, is said to have been overwhelmed by the work culture.

The police have registered an unnatural death report (UDR) and begun an investigation into the incident. **BMB**

Bus overturns on Kanakapura Road

On Monday morning, a KSRTC bus overturned on Kanakapura Road, resulting in the death of two individuals, including a police sub-inspector. Four others sustained serious injuries.

The deceased include PSI Nagaraj, who was serving at the Electronic City Traffic Police Station, and a civilian. Amongst the injured, one has been admitted to NIMHANS Hospital, while three others were shifted to Dayananda Sagar Hospital for treatment.

The bus was travelling from Kanakapura towards Bengaluru when the driver lost control near Kaggalipura police station. The vehicle mounted the road divider, veered onto the adjacent road, and collided with a bike carrying Nagaraj and another person before falling into a nearby ditch. Authorities are investigating the incident.

Businessman loses over Rs 3.4 lakh in insurance scam

As man duped by fraudsters posing as insurance agents, officials urge public to exercise caution and verify credentials, particularly in cases involving sensitive data

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A city-based businessman has reportedly lost over Rs 3.49 lakh in a carefully orchestrated insurance-related cyber fraud involving impersonation and multiple monetary transactions. The case has been registered at the Adugodi Police Station, and an investigation is currently underway.

According to the complaint, the incident began on March 31, 2025, when the businessman received a phone call from an individual identifying himself as Sanjeev Kaushik. Posing as a representative of a well-known private bank's life insurance division, Kaushik informed the victim that his insurance premium was due. Trusting the caller, the complainant transferred Rs 1 lakh to an account provided over the call.

Weeks later, on April 22, the victim received a second call from another person, Naman Chauhan, who claimed that Sanjeev Kaushik had resigned from the company. Chauhan reassured the victim that the initial payment would be refunded, but stated that a fresh payment was required to maintain the policy's validity. Believing the explanation, the businessman proceeded to transfer another Rs 1 lakh as a premium, Rs 78,000 as a medical policy fee, and Rs 67,000 purportedly as a tax department charge.

However, after making the payments, the victim did not receive any receipts or confirmation documents. When he followed up with Chauhan, he was asked to pay an additional Rs 90,000, this time with the promise of Rs 8 lakh in return.

"The incident began on March 31, 2025, when the businessman received a phone call from an individual identifying himself as Sanjeev Kaushik, who informed the victim that his insurance premium was due

This raised suspicion, prompting the businessman to visit the private bank's head office on MG Road, where he was informed that no such representatives existed, and that he had been the victim of cyber fraud.

In total, the complainant lost Rs 3.49 lakh through the fraudulent transactions. The case has been registered under three separate cyber crime FIRs.

Adugodi Police have initiated a probe and are currently working to trace the bank accounts and phone numbers used by the fraudsters.

Officials have urged the public to exercise caution and verify credentials thoroughly before making any financial commitments, particularly in cases involving sensitive personal and financial data.

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DAY AFTER THE DOWNPOUR: BENGALURU INFRASTRUCTURE CRUMBLES

ANOTHER MANIC MONDAY

PICS: KAUSHIK JN

How the city commutes after a night full of rain

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It rained in Bengaluru — and as tradition dictates, the city went under. Boats became the mode of transport, earthmovers turned into emergency taxis, and tractors made more appearances than autos as Bengaluru-ans waded through their worst case of Monday blues. Sheltering under trees was even more dangerous. Unpruned branches and neglected trunks threaten to collapse faster than civic promises. Homes offered no refuge either. Water barged in through drains and sewers, clogging memories and carpets alike. While citizens reached for mugs of hot filter coffee, sewage lines reached for their living rooms.

And no, this isn't your annual August-September monsoon déjà vu. The southwest monsoon hasn't even clocked in yet. These are just pre-monsoon showers — the city's gentle reminder that it's nowhere near ready for the real thing. If this is the trailer, the main feature promises to be an action-horror epic starring BBMP, BESCOM, BWSSB, and the most under-rated villain of them all — urban apathy. Brace yourselves, Bengaluru. It's only May.

Traffic stop

Heavy rains brought parts of the city to a standstill, with the traffic police issuing multiple advisories as several major roads were waterlogged, severely affecting vehicular movement.

Traffic on the road from Vijinapura-FCI Godown to Benniganahalli Metro stopped due to rainwater accumulation under the railway underpass. Commuters heading towards Benniganahalli and Tin Factory were warned of significant delays. Police officials tweeted that clearance work was underway and requested public cooperation.

At the Lowry underpass near BMTC Depot-2, waterlogging slowed traffic towards Whitefield and Mahadevapura. Authorities were working to drain the accumulated water.

Tunnel road, think again

The situation has reignited public criticism of the government's 48,000-crore tunnel road proposal. Bengaluru Central MP PC Mohan took to social media, saying, "They can't clear waterlogged roads or fallen trees after a single downpour, but want to dig tunnels costing 48,000 crore to solve Bengaluru's traffic? Maybe the tunnel's real purpose is to serve as a water reservoir."

Citizens also expressed frustration online. "After just a little rain: Road 1—underpass blocked, Road 2-3—blocked due to traffic and roadside digging. Newly built roads vanish in two months thanks to heavy trucks," one user commented. Another pointed out a lack of planning in the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the tunnel roads, stating, "Somewhere around here, BBMP's tunnel road plan has entry/exit points. They've spent 14 crore but haven't even examined the drainage. Nature has warned us. The DPR is clearly flawed. The tunnel project must be stopped."

Citizens demanded a rethink of mega projects and a renewed focus on basic civic preparedness. Silk Board Junction led the list of traffic nightmares, with a 10-km-long jam reported as early as 7.20 am—well before peak hours. Photos shared by Bengaluru Corporate Club showed vehicles crawling, if not stalled completely. Areas like Panathur S Cross, Domlur Flyover, and Koramangala were waterlogged, forcing residents to wade through knee-deep water and push stranded vehicles.

Social media was flooded with frustration. One user wrote, "Electronic City traffic jam: half a km, no movement for two hours. Welcome to Bengaluru's traffic management." On the city's outskirts, NH-48 near Adakamaranahalli (Nelamangala) was submerged after a lake and canal overflowed, leaving underpasses and service roads unusable. The Electronics City flyover was shut down as a precaution, triggering a massive pile-up along Hosur Road. The Hennur–Bagalur Road, a key airport link, was flooded, making it difficult for even traffic police to regulate movement.

Outer Ring Road saw massive jams between Hennur and Hebbal due to waterlogging. A service road near the Ozone building at Silk Board caved in, and a tin shed collapsed at a nearby construction site.

(With inputs from Sanjana CS)

PAIN POINTS

Encroachment of Stormwater Drains: Many of the city's ra-jakaluves (stormwater drains) are encroached upon or narrowed, obstructing smooth water flow.

Poor Drainage: Outdated and inad-equate drainage systems cannot handle sudden surges in rainwater.

Unplanned Urbanisation: Rapid construction without proper zoning or environmental planning has led to the disappearance of natural water bodies and wetlands.

Loss of Lakes and Buffer Zones: Ben-galuru once had a well-connected lake system; many lakes have been encroached or filled up, removing natural buffers against flooding.

Blocked Drains: Lack of regular maintenance leads to clogged drains filled with plastic, debris, and silt.

Concrete Surfaces with Poor Per-meability: Extensive concretisation reduces soil absorption

More than 100 areas waterlogged

Bengaluru faced widespread waterlogging and rainwater intrusion across multiple zones due to heavy overnight rainfall. Many homes, roads and important public spaces were flooded.

In Mahadevapura zone, areas like Marathahalli Deep Nursing Home, Chinnappanahalli 5th Cross, Panathur railway underbridge, Green Hood, Iblur Junction, Balaji Layout-Kottanuru, A. Narayanapura's Krishna Nagar, Sunil Layout, Haralur, and BSP Layout's Kasavanahalli reported significant flooding, with BBMP teams actively working to clear water and resolve most issues.

In the East Zone, overflow of the Rajakaluve stormwater drain caused flooding in HBR blocks 5 to 8, Byrasandra Layout, Kempegowda Road, and Kamaraj Nagar. Bommanahalli zone saw water stagnation in HSR Layout sectors 6 and 7 and the Bannerghatta-Bilekahalli signal road, with water entering homes in Yelachenahalli.

The South Zone experienced increased water levels due to reduced drainage near K-100 and K-200 drains, flooding Madiwala Dollar's Colony, Koramangala 6th Block, and Ejipura. Yelahanka zone reported water intrusion in about 15 houses in Attur (Chaudeshwari Nagar) and around 5 houses in Defence Layout and Dwarka Nagar, with pumps deployed for drainage. Rajarajeshwari Nagar zone faced reverse water flow in Vrishabhavathi Valley at Idle Homes 1st E Cross, resulting in the death of five cattle and flooding about 12 houses; drainage cleaning was carried out to ease water flow.

Waterlogging also affected Vijayshree Layout and Hemmigepura near Rajakaluve, with BBMP teams addressing the situation. In Kengeri Kote Layout, nearly 100 houses were affected, and four pumps were installed for water removal.

Dasarahalli zone saw water intrusion in KG Halli, Defence Colony, Medarahalli's Shridevi layout, Rukmini Nagar, Vidyanagar, and BTS Layout, with drainage operations ongoing. In West Zone's KP Agrahara, Rajakaluve overflow led to flooding in 20 houses, with pumps deployed to clear water.

Two-wheelers floating

Many two-wheelers were floating in rain water in many parts of the City. Visuals from the Silk Board Metro Station show severe waterlogging. The Silk Board area, a major traffic hub, is severely affected, causing inconvenience to commuters.

Other areas, including Shanti Nagar bus stands and Kanteerava Stadium, also face problems due to heavy rains. Waterlogging has been reported in several low-lying areas, disrupting daily life. The city's notorious traffic congestion has worsened due to flooding, with numerous tree branches falling and vehicles breaking down.

—BMB

Social Media fight

A picture captured by Bengaluru Corporate Club's official 'X' handle shows a chock-a-block Silk Board -- one of the infamous bottlenecks that slow down traffic in the city -- at 7.20 am, the supposedly non-peak hour, on Monday. "Bengaluru has been turned into Venice after just one spell of rain. The Congress's apathy has ruined Silicon City. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has no vision for this global city other than using it as an ATM to fill their coffers," said BJP leader Amit Malviya in a post om X.

Deputy CM DK Shivakumar said, "Let us be clear: the issues we face today are not new. They have been ignored for years, across governments and administrations. The only difference now is – we are working to solve them. Not with temporary fixes, but with long-term, sustainable solutions."

'Sorting it out, no damage to files'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

building too is proving inadequate in terms of infrastructure, especially during monsoon. Rainwater entered the ground floor of the building, damaging several documents and causing disruption to official work.

Sources indicate that the rainwater has not receded fully even hours after the downpour that began around 2 am due to which sewage overflowed, as the adjacent and drains continue to remain waterlogged. This has led to fears of further damage and raised safety concerns among the police officials working in the building.

According to a police source, although the water has now been cleared from the premises, significant damage has already been done. "Files and documents are completely soaked, everything is wet. The ground floor houses around 8 to 10 rooms, including ones with computers and CPUs, many of which have been damaged. Some important data and seized items have also been ruined," the official said.

The source further revealed that there had been minor flooding issues earlier as well, but nothing of this magnitude had been reported. "It's only been six months since we shifted to this new office. In previous instances of heavy rain, we at least managed to prevent vehicle movement disruptions. But this is the first time the damage has been so extensive."

The official described the scene during the downpour: "Around 3 to 4 feet of water had accumulated by morning. We couldn't enter or exit the premises. Lockers installed at lower levels were submerged, and several seized items were destroyed." Expressing concern over the future, the official added, "If this is what happens during the very first spell of rain, how are we expected to function in the months ahead?"

The incident has sparked criticism over poor maintenance and questionable site selection for a sensitive department like the CCB, which handles criminal investigations.

Bengaluru City police Commissioner B Dayanada, however, clarified that water had entered only the low base level. "There is no damage to files. We are speaking with engineers to get this rectified and ensure it doesn't happen in the future."

Woman dies in wall collapse; BBMP announces Rs 5 lakh compensation

A 35-year-old woman lost her life after a wall collapsed in the Whitefield-Channasandra area. Following the incident, BBMP Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao announced a compensation of ₹5 lakh to the victim's family.

The 35-year-old woman, Shashikala, was killed when a rain-soaked compound wall collapsed on her.

A private sector employee, Shashikala succumbed to her injuries on the spot.

In another rain-related incident, a compound wall collapsed in Ideal Homes Layout, RR Nagar, early Sunday morning, killing five buffaloes and a cow. The fire department received an alert around 7.08 am and responded from the Jnanabharathi station.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM DK Shivakumar are scheduled to inspect various rain-affected areas on Monday evening, including Manyata Tech Park, Sai Layout, HSR Layout, Ejipura Junction, Silk Board Junction, and the BBMP control room.

At a press conference, Rao said Bengaluru recorded the highest rainfall in the last decade.

"With such intense rain, minor problems are unavoidable. Our teams have identified 206 sensitive locations and provided relief in many of them," he said.

Rao also highlighted that permanent solutions are being implemented in key areas.

In Sai Layout, the drainage system will be expanded, and water inflow sources will be sealed. At Silk Board, where water stagnation is caused by overflow from Madiwala Lake, silt removal from stormwater drains is underway.

BBMP teams, in coordination with BWSSB and the fire brigade, are actively working on the ground.

Action has also begun to remove encroachments along stormwater drains (rajakaluves).

2 other deaths due to electrocution

In a separate tragedy at Madhuwan Apartments in Dollar's Colony, BTM Second Stage, two individuals died due to electrocution. Manmohan Kamath (63), a resident of the apartment, was using an external motor to pump water out of the inundated cellar when a short circuit occurred around 6.15 pm. In the same incident, 12-year-old Dinesh, the son of a Nepalese worker employed at the complex, also came in contact with the live current and died.

IN BRIEF

Orphanage flooded

The downpour led to severe flooding within the premises of an orphanage in Hennur, leaving its vulnerable residents including the elderly, disabled, and ailing, stranded in knee-deep water. According to sources, scenes from the site revealed elderly residents perched on chairs atop the terrace, seeking assistance, while a sick woman was seen lying on a waterlogged cot inside the facility.

The orphanage's management raised an alarm in the morning, prompting emergency response teams to rush to the scene. Fire and emergency services personnel, along with BBMP officials, began rescue operations by afternoon.

Extra caution for bikers

Over the next few days, please exercise extra caution during rains. Avoid parking vehicles under trees, temporary structures, or near weakened compound walls to prevent damage or accidents. Ensure the parking brake is applied, and secure the wheels with blocks. Refrain from driving through waterlogged roads, as it may be difficult to judge the depth and condition of the surface. If your vehicle gets stuck in water, do not attempt to start it, as this could severely damage the engine due to water ingress. Keep headlights and hazard lights on in low visibility conditions.

All lakes full in Yelahanka

All 29 lakes in Yelahanka zone are completely full. Despite receiving 103 mm of rain in Chowdeshwari Layout, no major flooding was reported. The city recorded an average rainfall of 66 mm between 10 pm and 6 am, with the heaviest downpour in Kengeri at 132 mm and the lowest in Gottigere at 32 mm. Zone-wise, the highest rainfall amounts were: RR Nagar (Kengeri) 132 mm, Yelahanka 103 mm, South Zone (Koramangala) 96 mm, Mahadevapura (HAL area) 93 mm, Dasarahalli (Bagalgunte) 89 mm, West (Cottonpet) 89 mm, East (Banaswadi) 85 mm, and Bommanahalli (HSR Layout) 73 mm.

Flooding in Vrishabhavathi River

The Vrishabhavathi River is overflowing, carrying large amounts of garbage and wastewater. Villagers near the river in the Bidadi area are facing severe distress due to the polluted flow. The river, which passes through the Bidadi hobli's Chikkakuntanahalli village, has accumulated heaps of trash, especially near the village bridge, where garbage is piled up heavily. This blockage of waste has obstructed the smooth flow of water, causing flooding in some homes.

Tech park turns lake

Manyata tech park resembled a lake. People were seen pushing stuck cars in knee-deep water at places like Panathur S Cross, upper ramp of Domlur flyover and Koramangala, which are prone to waterlogging. Traffic was also slow near the Tech Park.

Citizen Helpline - 1533

Residents experiencing rain-related problems in BBMP limits are urged to call the BBMP helpline at 1533 to report issues immediately. Complaints can also be registered at BBMP headquarters and control rooms across 8 zones.

KIA wildlife smuggling exposes security failures

Despite foiled attempt to smuggle vipers, cuscus, and opossum, officials remain passive; activists urge FIRs, arrests, and task force to combat trafficking

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A disturbing wildlife smuggling attempt involving nine venomous Wagler's pit vipers, a common spotted cuscus, and a live opossum smuggled into Bengaluru has raised alarm among wildlife activists. Despite proactive action by Customs and the Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), no First Information Report (FIR) has been registered by the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) Police Station, sparking outrage over institutional apathy and systemic enforcement failures.

The smuggling attempt was thwarted in the early hours of May 12 when Customs officials at KIA intercepted Jagadeesh Raman (35), a passenger on a Thai Airways flight from Bangkok. The animals were confiscated, quarantined, and repatriated to Thailand after veterinary protocols were completed. However, Raman and his alleged accomplice, Yogesh, were released on bail due to jurisdictional limitations faced by Customs.

On May 17, Bengaluru-based social activist Mansoor Chetlu filed a formal complaint with the Director General and Inspector General of Police, Karnataka, urging registration of an FIR under the Wildlife Protection Act. The complaint names the accused individuals, Thai Airways, Malaysian Airways, a private zoo in Gujarat allegedly tied to the trafficking ring, and complicit officials. It also flags serious lapses in airport security and regulatory oversight.

File photo of smuggled reptiles intercepted at the Bengaluru airport

> **Our hands are tied—we can only intercept suspects, but legal proceedings require police intervention, which is often delayed or ignored**
>
> –Customs Official

The activist's petition highlights violations of international aviation and wildlife protection regulations, including the IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations (DGR), Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR), and ICAO Annex 18. These standards, if properly enforced, should have flagged the illegal transport of live, venomous animals—posing serious risks to passengers, aviation staff, and national biosecurity.

Activists argue that while Customs is responsible for initial interception, it lacks the authority to initiate legal proceedings. That responsibility lies with the Airport Police, who, in this case—as in many past ones—have failed to act. This pattern of poor coordination and lack of accountability has allowed transnational wildlife trafficking to flourish unchecked.

Repeated wildlife seizures at KIA have failed to lead to meaningful action. Between 2023 and 2024 alone, authorities seized 17 king cobras, 10 anacondas, and over 230 other reptiles. Despite this, not a single FIR has been filed or trafficking networks dismantled. A senior BIAL official even formally alerted Bangkok Airport in January 2025, but enforcement gaps persist.

"Smuggling venomous wildlife on commercial flights puts countless lives at risk," said a source. "Under the Wildlife Protection Act, offenders face up to 10 years in prison. The lack of action is inexcusable."

The complaint urges urgent registration of an FIR, re-arrest of the accused, and the formation of a dedicated Wildlife Task Force at KIA, alongside stronger coordination with agencies like Interpol to curb cross-border trafficking.

Indiranagar trash stretch finally clean and safe

After years of failed attempts, BBMP and TUI finally reclaim a chronic Indiranagar dump site near ESI Hospital using their Spot Fixing model

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A 200-foot stretch starting at the ESI Junction on Indiranagar Double Road—an important link between Cambridge Layout and 100 Ft Road—has long been a chronic black spot for garbage and debris, resisting several past efforts at cleanup and restoration.

On May 13, Bangalore Mirror published a report titled Trash turns Indiranagar stretch into an eyesore, detailing how unchecked waste accumulation had turned the area into a serious health hazard, posing risks to both pedestrians and the surrounding community.

Beautifcation of the black spot near ESI Hospital, Indiranagar

In response, a joint effort by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and civic volunteer group The Ugly Indian (TUI) over the weekend brought a much-needed transformation. Several truckloads of garbage and debris were cleared, the footpath was repaired, and the surrounding walls were painted, giving the entire area a cleaner, more walkable and aesthetically pleasing look.

> **The initial response has been promising, and BBMP Marshals have successfully kept the area clean and garbage-free for the past 48 hours**

"It was like a precision strike on the visible symptoms of a deep-rooted problem," said a TUI volunteer. "It will now take several days of vigilant monitoring and action on the root causes to ensure a permanent solution. The initial response has been encouraging, and BBMP Marshals have ensured the area has remained clean over the last 48 hours."

Ironically, the filthy stretch is located adjacent to the ESI Hospital, its staff quarters, and a nursing college—facilities that cater to public health needs. That such a major eyesore was allowed to persist for so long near these essential institutions is deeply regrettable. Residents hope that this timely action signals lasting change and not just a short-term fix.

The volunteers followed the tried-and-tested "Spot Fixing" method pioneered by The Ugly Indian over the past several years.

Step 1 involved a thorough deep clean—removing all waste, debris, and obstacles from the footpath and roadway.

Step 2 focused on basic infrastructure repairs, such as replacing missing footpath slabs and carrying out minor masonry work.

Step 3 included painting the walls with a clean, aesthetically pleasing design to enhance the overall ambience and discourage further vandalism or dumping.

Step 4 calls for 24/7 monitoring over the next 5–7 days, in collaboration with local residents and BBMP marshals, to maintain cleanliness and enforce zero tolerance for garbage dumping or misuse of public space.

This clean-up is part of CleanStreets500Km, reclaiming 500 km of Bengaluru's footpaths for all.

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Drainage disaster
Chikkagubbi

Last night's rain flooded the stretch in chikkagubbi, revealing a complete failure in drainage — and the monsoon is yet to begin.

Drain crisis
Shivajinagar

At Guptha Layout, dirty water continues to flood homes. Despite repeated complaints, BBMP and BWSSB have failed to respond, leaving residents in distress.

Water woes
Marathahalli

An unscientific stormwater drain near Marathahalli is causing severe flooding in nearby houses and a nursing home, turning the road into a virtual river.

Western Ghats under direct threat from Sharavathi project: Report

NGO report flags flawed data, endangered habitats, and rising risk to critical ecosystems

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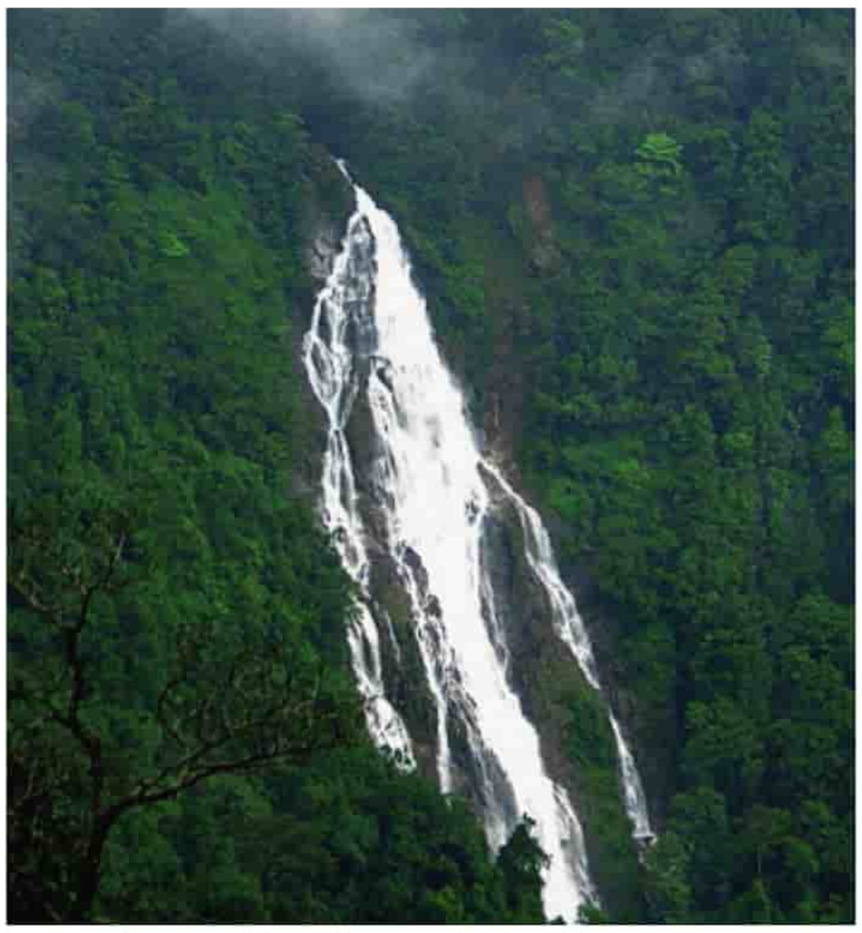

Sharavathi project threatens crucial habitat of endangered Lion-tailed Macaques

A report from a city-based non-governmental organisation has highlighted that legally protected wildlife sanctuaries in the Western Ghats are under direct threat from various projects, especially the Sharavathi Pumped Storage Project.

According to the report by Mapping Malnad, the Karnataka Power Corporation Limited's (KPCL) Sharavathi Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Project is advancing based on "inadequate, misleading, and flawed data," raising significant environmental and legal concerns. The project, which proposes to divert 279 acres of dense evergreen and semi-evergreen forests in the Sharavathi Lion-Tailed Macaque (LTM) Wildlife Sanctuary, has already been approved by the State Wildlife Board and the Karnataka government. It now awaits Stage-I approval from the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

"This project will create a system that consumes eight hours of coal-powered energy to generate just six hours of hydropower. It is fundamentally inefficient and results in a net energy loss," said Nirmala Gowda, founder of Mapping Malnad. "More critically, it opens up dense evergreen forests—vital carbon sinks and turns them into carbon sources."

The report argues that the project, while marketed as a green initiative to stabilise the power grid, is actually a setback to climate goals and biodiversity conservation. It also warns that the project's environmental clearance has been obtained by misrepresenting forest land use. KPCL claimed a requirement of 39.79 hectares in its application, but clearance was granted for 54.155 hectares. As per the Forest (Conservation) Rules, any diversion above 50 hectares necessitates a Biodiversity Impact Assessment—one that KPCL successfully avoided through underreporting.

Moreover, while KPCL claimed only 20 trees would be felled, Mapping Malnad estimates the true number at over 16,000, including massive girth evergreen trees. The project also involves the use of 18,000 tons of industrial explosives and will generate approximately 14.49 lakh cubic metres of excavated muck adding to the environmental burden.

The sanctuary is a crucial habitat for numerous endangered species, particularly the Lion-tailed Macaque, a primate found only in the Western Ghats. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 allows diversions within sanctuaries only if they are in the interest of wildlife, a standard that, the report argues, this project fails to meet.

Gowda said that project documents submitted to authorities contain misinformation and key omissions that compromise the integrity of the clearance process. The project has also been fragmented into smaller components, which environmentalists say is a tactic used to bypass comprehensive review of its ecological impact.

Worryingly, the Sharavathi project is not an isolated case. The report flags that the proposed Varahi Pumped Storage Project will require about 612 acres from the Someshwara and Mookambika Wildlife Sanctuaries. It warns that the approvals granted so far are setting a dangerous precedent, with at least 11 more such projects potentially targeting protected areas across the Western Ghats.

"No hydroelectric project that clears 279 acres of evergreen habitat, fells nearly 15,000 trees, and disrupts a fragile forest ecosystem can credibly claim to be in the interest of wildlife," Gowda said. "Yet, the Karnataka government has greenlit it."

The report was developed in consultation with grassroots activists and reflects growing citizen concern over weakening environmental governance. Gowda called for the immediate establishment of a "Western Ghats Ecology Authority" to strengthen protections and ensure accountability.

"These forests are not just ecological treasures—they are also Bengaluru's most vital water infrastructure," she said. "We hope the authorities will reconsider this project in light of the facts. It simply doesn't make sense."

AAP accuses MLA of assault

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Working President Sitaram Gundappa held a press conference on Monday demanding the arrest and investigation of Congress MLA and BDA Chairman NA Harris and former local corporator Srinivas Reddy, claiming that they along with some goons attacked AAP's local leader Shivakumar Naidu at Domlur, Shantinagar Assembly constituency.

Gundappa alleged that Naidu was assaulted after he raised local civic issues during the MLA's recent ward visit. He accused Harris and his associates of trying to silence dissent through violence and intimidation. "We will not allow Shantinagar to be turned into a goonda republic," Gundappa said.

Bengaluru City AAP President Dr Satish Kumar, also present at the press meet, claimed that Naidu had recently exposed a scandal involving a prominent builder accused of encroaching on BBMP footpaths on Brigade Road. Following this, Naidu allegedly received repeated threats from local goons linked to the MLA.

Kumar further said that even 20 hours after the alleged assault, no FIR had been filed due to political pressure. "We have now submitted a formal complaint to the Police Commissioner," he added.

However, Shantinagar MLA NA Harris denied all the allegations stating that they have no ground. "The allegations are false and far from the truth," the MLA said.

-BMB

3 women drown in Magadi

Tragedy struck at the YG Gudda reservoir in Magadi taluk when three young women drowned while playing in the water. The unfortunate victims Bhargavi (22), Ramya (20), and Madhu (25) were residents of Electronic City, Bengaluru, and had come to YG Gudda village to attend a local festival. While spending time near the reservoir backwaters, three members of the seven-person group accidentally slipped into the water and drowned. The remaining four were rescued by locals. The bodies were later recovered and taken to Magadi Public Hospital. A case has been registered at the Magadi Police Station, and further investigation is underway.

BM Trippin' Tales

Consumer Connect Initiative

Tourists shift south: Kodagu emerges top summer spot

Security concerns in North India have led to a significant shift in tourism, with South Indian states like Karnataka, especially Kodagu, experiencing a surge in visitors seeking safer and cooler destinations this summer

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Recent security concerns in North India including the Pahalgam terror attack, India's Operation Sindoor in response, a series of setbacks, and repeated ceasefire violations by Pakistan—have significantly impacted tourism not only in Kashmir but also across northern states. These developments have caused many travellers who had planned summer vacations in North India to change their destination preferences, turning instead to the cooler and safer southern states.

As a result, tourist spots in South India are witnessing a surge in visitors, offering a welcome boost to the region's tourism industry. States like Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala have emerged as preferred destinations this summer, thanks to their pleasant climate and relative safety.

Tourists flock to Kodagu's scenic Western Ghats this summer

In Karnataka, Kodagu district in the Malnad region has seen a remarkable uptick in tourist arrivals. Between April and mid-May this year, the district welcomed approximately 1.195 million visitors, an increase of about 250,000 compared to the same period last year, according to the Tourism Department. Many of these tourists are opting for extended stays in resorts and homestays, drawn by Kodagu's natural charm and tranquil ambience.

Popular spots like the Harangi Backwater Camp near Kushalnagar have witnessed a noticeable rise in footfall. Officials estimate that over the last 15 days alone, around 150,000 additional tourists visited the district.

With temperatures soaring along India's coastal belt particularly in Goa, Mangaluru, Puducherry, and Kanyakumari—more travellers are heading inland toward the cooler climes of the Western Ghats. Malnad's scenic districts, especially Kodagu, are benefitting from this shift. Known for its lush greenery, rolling hills, and coffee plantations, Kodagu has become a magnet for nature lovers.

Many travel agents have confirmed a spike in last-minute changes. "Several tourists who had booked trips to North India through online platforms or agencies are cancelling due to safety concerns. Instead of refunds, they're being offered alternatives in the South, which has helped retain bookings," said a Bengaluru-based agent.

This redirection has significantly increased demand for Southern destinations. Tour operators report that well-regulated homestays and enhanced tourism management in Kodagu have bolstered its appeal.

KPTCL told to appoint candidate with 75% disability

The Karnataka High Court has instructed KPTCL to appoint a 75% physically challenged staff member as Assistant Accounts Officer (AAO), stressing that recruitment should consider both medical certificates and functional ability.

Chief Justice NV Anjaria and Justice KV Aravind, forming a division bench, issued the order whilst considering an appeal by Anil Kumar, a KPTCL assistant who had sought promotion under the physically challenged quota.

The court observed that despite the appellant's 75% physical disability, he demonstrates functional capability in essential tasks like sitting, writing and using both hands for regular work. These capabilities, verified through functional assessments, qualify him for the AAO position. Additionally, Anil Kumar currently performs clerical duties at KPTCL, which align with AAO responsibilities.

"The roles of an Assistant and an Assistant Accounts Officer are substantially similar. Therefore, declaring the appellant ineligible for the AAO post solely on medical grounds is unreasonable," the court stated.

The High Court emphasised that for physically challenged candidates, eligibility should not solely depend on medical certificates but should prioritise functional assessment. It referenced a Supreme Court ruling that permits selection from available applicants under the disability quota by adjusting eligibility criteria when necessary.

Anil Kumar joined KPTCL as an Assistant following a March 7, 2015 recruitment notice. When KPTCL advertised various positions, including AAO, on September 8, 2016, Kumar applied under the 75% physically challenged quota and took the examination.

His exclusion from the provisional selection list prompted legal action after KPTCL claimed no suitable candidates existed under the physically challenged quota. Kumar contested this decision in the High Court, asserting his eligibility and requesting appointment.

After a single-judge bench dismissed his petition citing ineligibility, Kumar appealed to the division bench, which has now ruled favourably.

This decision represents a crucial advancement in protecting the rights of physically disabled individuals, promoting an inclusive and practical approach to public sector employment. **BMB**

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I Shyam Satyanarayan Iyengar S/o Satyanarayan.A.R, Residing At, flat 1601 A7, elita Promenade, near Brigade Millennium, J.P. Nagar, 7th Phase, Bengaluru 560078, have Changed My Minor Daughter Name Parinita to Parinita Shyam Iyengar for all purposes.

I, AVINASH SATHYANARAYANA, Residing at No 65, Eshwara Layout, JP Nagar 7th Phase, Bangalore-560062, Have changed my name to AVINASH SATHYANARAYANA UPADHYA, vide affidavit dated 17/05/2025 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

I, TEENA PRASAN KUMAR R/a.#1, D 3rd Street, Shivaji Rd Crs, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru-560051, I, have Changed my name to TEENA DHIRAJ KUMAR, Vide affidavit, dated 17/05/2025 Sworn before Notary: N.Nagappa. Bangalore

I, PRABHU DEV VENKATESH R/a#423, 5th Main, 4th Cross, Rajagopalnagar, Bengaluru-560058, I, have Changed my name to PRABHU VENKATESH, Vide affidavit, dated 17/05/2025 Sworn before Notary: N.Nagappa. Bangalore

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I, Bethruswamy Manikandan R/o D101, VDB celadon, Jakkur main road, Shivanahalli, Yelahanka, Bengaluru 560064 have changed my name to Bethrusamy Manikandan. I shall be called by this name for all purpose

I, Beauti Dutta, W/o Makhan Dhar, R/o No. 278, Krishna Bhawan, Vinayaka Nagar, Whitefield, Bengaluru – 560066, have changed my name to Beauti Dutta Dhar for all purposes.

I, Thomas Ancy Bindya Morris R/O no 06 Apoorva Meadows B'lore north B'lore 64 Have changed my name Bindu Vinod Thotathil to Thomas Ancy Bindya Morris for all future purposes.

I, Geetha Gopala W/O, Gopala Annaiyappa Devasandra R/O No 43, Gangothri, Devasandra, Krishnarajapuram Post, Bengaluru 560036 have changed my name to Geetha Ramaiah for all purposes.

I, Vinod Dhamodhar Thotathil R/O no 06 Apoorva Meadows B'lore North 560064 my Mothe names i.e., Komalavalli and Komalam are one and the same and both the names belongs to my mother only and for none others

I, WASEEM AHAMED KHAN, S/o Gaffer Khan, R/at KHB Colony, Sidilu Basaveshvara Badavane, 1st Cross, Behind Govt Hospital, Gubbi Town, Tumakuru Dist, Karnataka, have changed my name to WASEEM AHAMAD KHAN, affidavit dt: 14.05.2025 before notary A S Shashidhara, Gubbi

I, Kavitha Ramakrishna Kaginelli R/o No.582, G Mrk Reveria, Vinayka Lyt, Nagarabhavi 2nd stage, Bengaluru 560072 have changed my name to Kavitha Vijay Bhavi Affidavit Dt.19/05/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

MISSING

MISSING PERSON

Name : **Gopalan K S**
Age : **73** | *Gender :* **Male,**
Height : **5'6",**
Complexion : **Medium**
Last seen Wearing **Light Orange/Peach Shirt** and **White Dhoti.**
Place : **Dommasandra, Bangalore.**
Date & Time : **16-May-2025** at approximately **9:50 PM.**
If found or seen, please contact:
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The family is deeply worried. Any information will be greatly appreciated.

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'Apartment Owners Cooperative Society formed following legally correct process'

The Ramky One North Apartment Owners Cooperative Society Ltd, in a statement on Monday, said that it has been formed following the legally correct process and it was upheld by High Court in 25997/2024 and 190/2024.

It said the husbands of the present petitioners had filed the petition in the High Court and the Department for cancellation of the Society which were dismissed.

Now the judgement has been set aside by the Division Bench of the High Court.

The statement has said that in the present judgement 27821/2024 Judge has not stated it is illegal. "It has been set aside for some other reasons. And it has been directed to form an Association under KAOA 1972," the statement read.

It said that the apartment was constructed by a Telangana based group called Ramky Estate & Farms Ltd who was in the business of waste management.

"This project has 754 apartments constructed in approximately 7.1 acres of land. Approximately 624 Apartments of B & C blocks have obtained Occupation Certificate.

But the builder's violation failed to get the OC for the rest of the blocks because of the construction without permission of the Environment Department.

These block owners have a grouse against the society because it is fighting for the legality of the apartment complex. If the Cooperative society is cancelled the beneficiary is the builder," the statement read. **BMB**

Test drive trick: OLX fraudster arrested for two-wheeler theft

The Bandepalya police have arrested a man who stole a two-wheeler under the pretext of taking it for a test drive after spotting an ad on OLX.

The accused, identified as Pradeep alias OLX Pradeep (31), a resident of Adarsh Nagar, Arishina Kunte, Nelamangala, approached Ritabina Das, who had listed her two-wheeler for sale on the OLX app. On May 1, around 11 am, he visited her location, expressed interest in purchasing the vehicle, and requested a test ride—only to vanish with the vehicle.

Ritabina immediately lodged a complaint with Bandepalya police. Based on the FIR, the police launched an investigation and successfully tracked down and arrested Pradeep. A two-wheeler worth Rs 90,000 was recovered from him.

The investigation, led by Mahesh Kanakagiri, revealed that Pradeep was a repeat offender. Police found that he had committed similar crimes in the Peenya, Kumbalagodu, Subramanyapura, Amruthahalli, and Kothanur police station limits. In all, five two-wheelers were seized.

All set for State Education Policy from 2025-26

The Karnataka government is preparing to roll out the State Education Policy (SEP), designed as an alternative to the Centre's National Education Policy (NEP), starting from the 2025-26 academic year. A final decision on the implementation is expected by the end of this month.

Following the submission of an interim report by the SEP Drafting Committee, the state has already taken steps to roll back some of the NEP's key components. From the 2024-25 academic year, the undergraduate course duration—extended to four years under NEP—has been reverted to three years.

The multiple-entry, multiple-exit model introduced under NEP has also been shelved. The final SEP report, currently being translated from English to Kannada, is nearing completion.

The State Education Policy Commission is expected to submit the final draft to the government by the last week of May. **BMB**

21,255 schools urgently require major repairs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

repair works are carried out under the supervision of district collectors and CEOs, limiting direct control by the department. Consequently, the Education Department is now considering empowering its officials with greater oversight authority over repair projects. Several cases of substandard work have been reported, prompting the department to take responsibility for stricter monitoring and ensuring accountability for the utilisation of funds. As the monsoon draws near, the urgency to address these repairs intensifies to safeguard the safety and learning environment of thousands of students statewide.

Sadanand P, an educationist, said, "The fact that nearly 45% of government school classrooms in Karnataka require urgent repairs is deeply concerning and poses a serious risk to the safety and well-being of students and teachers alike. As the monsoon approaches, the potential for accidents and structural failures increases dramatically, which could disrupt education and endanger lives.

It is imperative that the government prioritises immediate funding and action for comprehensive renovation and maintenance. Beyond repairs, there should be regular safety audits and a long-term infrastructure development plan to ensure all schools provide a safe, conducive learning environment for our children."

Rashmika's 'new BFF' — Rashmika Mandanna took to social media to introduce her new best friend — the lovable, fuzzy blue alien Stitch. Taking to Instagram, the 'Animal' actress posted a video titled "A Day in Rashmika's Life with Her New BFF Stitch"

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Beware of dog

Generally, people put up the sign – Beware of Dog – at the entrance of their homes to warn visitors of the presence of a dog. Now, a Kannada movie – Naayi Ide Eccharike – is in the making. Dr Leelamohan PVR is bankrolling the movie apart from playing the lead. Dr Leelamohan has been associated with Sandalwood for the last five years. He, apart from playing character roles in Kaurya, Putani Pantarugalu, and Road King, played the lead in Kannada movie Gadiyara and also played a psycho character in the movie Ugravathaara.

Naayi Ide Eccharike is directed by Kali Gowda. "I have been associated with Sandalwood for more than 15 years. It is my second movie. Dogs are known for their loyalty and strong bonding with humans. This movie showcases how loyal the dog is even after its death. I am grateful to the producer for bankrolling the movie and also to those responsible for this movie to turn out well," Kali Gowda said.

The movie's teaser and songs were unveiled by director-cum-producer Indrajit Lankesh. Sandalwood star Pratham was the guest of honour at the event.

Ill-effects of mobile phone

After a gap of 10 years, Duniya Vijay is acting in a Kannada movie directed by actor-cum-director S Narayan. Duniya Vijay has played a prominent character in Maarutha directed by S Narayan. Shreyas Manju plays the lead in this movie while Brinda is paired opposite him. The movie's lyrical video song was released recently. Narayan has written this lyric and has also scored music while Chandan Shetty has sung it.

Director Narayan said the promotional activities of the movie have begun with the unveiling of the lyrical video song. "We have decided the title of the movie – Maarutha – only after Duniya Vijay came on board. He acted in the movie Chanda that was directed by me in 2007. I expect this movie to become a huge success at the box office," said Narayan.

He said the movie highlights the importance of parents spending quality time with their children. "This movie emphasises on the need for parents to keep a vigil on their children and how the children are using mobile phones. It is my third movie with Duniya Vijay and producer K Manju and the first movie with producer Ramsh Yadav," the director said.

Duniya Vijay said he was very happy to be part of the team. "I have learnt discipline while acting in movies directed by S Narayan who is known for handling the megaphone for many successful movies. I want to act in a family-oriented movie directed by S Narayan in future," Duniya Vijay said.

Making the right choice

Bhumi shares insights on her self-acceptance and fitness journey

Bhumi Pednekar, who has caught attention with her remarkable transformation, has always stood out for her honest and genuine approach. Bhumi openly shares her journey with fitness, body image, and self-acceptance. Her transformations have never been about extremes but about making choices that feel right for her.

Since her debut in 'Dum Laga Ke Haisha,' Bhumi Pednekar has impressed audiences not just with her acting but also with her dedication to each role. For her first film, she purposely gained over 30 kg, breaking the typical image of a Bollywood heroine.

Later, the actress lost more than 35 kg—without crash diets or extreme workouts. Instead, she focused on a balanced routine, staying healthy, and practicing self-care. Her transformation shows that real change comes with patience and the right mindset.

Pednekar's fitness routine is down-to-earth and easy to relate to. In an interview with Vogue, she shared that her mornings usually begin with a nutritious breakfast that includes fruits and nuts, giving her energy for the day.

After that, she goes for a run, which helps boost her mood, jumpstart her metabolism, and is great for her heart, bones, and joints. Fitness is now a regular part of Bhumi's life. She likes to mix things up with different workouts like Pilates, running, strength training, and weight training. She spends about an hour each day exercising and usually completes 7,000–8,000 steps daily.

When Bhumi made her debut, the audience's response was full of love and support. Even though she had gained weight for the role, she didn't face criticism. Instead, the appreciation boosted her confidence and motivated her to continue her journey in a healthy and positive way.

—ETimes

Thunderous standing ovation at Cannes

Wes Anderson's latest film, 'The Phoenician Scheme', premiered at the Cannes Film Festival, earning a thunderous standing ovation.

As per Deadline, the audience gave a 7.5-minute standing ovation to the film after the screening. The film stars Benicio Del Toro as European industrialist Anatole 'Zsa-zsa' Korda and Mia Threapleton as his estranged daughter Liesl, a nun in training. Mia Threapleton was visibly moved by the audience's applause, tearing up as the crowd continued to cheer.

Anderson expressed his gratitude to the cast, name-checking them in his post-screening comments. "The only thing really I can think to say -- I think of 12 words to say that would stand for everything in this movie," Anderson said, before pointing out his castmates, including Del Toro, Michael Cera, and Roman Coppola, as per Deadline.

'The Phoenician Scheme' marks a return to form for Anderson's offbeat dysfunctional family comedies, similar to 'Rushmore' and 'The Royal Tenenbaums'. The film follows Korda, who has survived six plane crashes and is now appointing Liesl as his successor. Together, they embark on a mission to close a expanding financial shortfall.As per Deadline, critics have praised Del Toro's performance, saying the film "belongs lock, stock and barrel to Benicio Del Toro, playing this Onassis-style billionaire who proves to be so adept to the rhythms of Anderson's dialogue." **—ANI**

Throwback to a great look

Actor Deepika Padukone had caught the attention of all at Cannes 2019 with her looks. On the second day of the festival, she walked the red carpet wearing a beautiful ruffled lime green Giambattista Valli gown with a long train.

She paired her lime green gown with a baby pink headband and a matching bow, making sure all eyes were on her as she arrived for the screening of Dolor Y Gloria (Pain and Glory) at the event.

Back home, Deepika's husband Ranveer Singh was amazed by her stunning look. When Deepika shared the first pictures on Instagram with the caption, "Living a Lime Green Life...#Cannes2019," Ranveer called her look "Nuts" in the comments. He also wrote "UN FREAKING REAL" under a photo showing her long train as she climbed the stairs. Praising her smiling close-up, he commented, "Wow ..... I mean ..... WOW !!!!!!!!!!" and added "Hahahahahahaah yeeeee-haaaaaaah baby let em know" on a post where Deepika struck a candid pose. Deepika also shared a video showing how she got ready for the evening, including her walking down the stairs in her huge gown. Ranveer replied to the post with a simple and sweet "MUUUUUUUUUAH."

During that day, Deepika shared four different outfits as she enjoyed her time at the French Riviera. **— ETimes**

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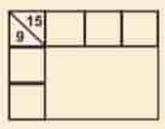
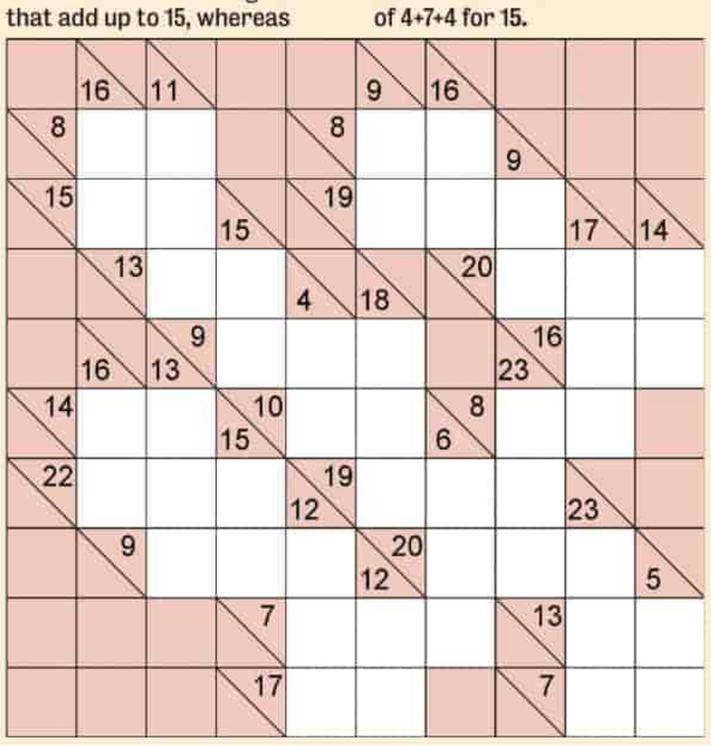
Kakuro

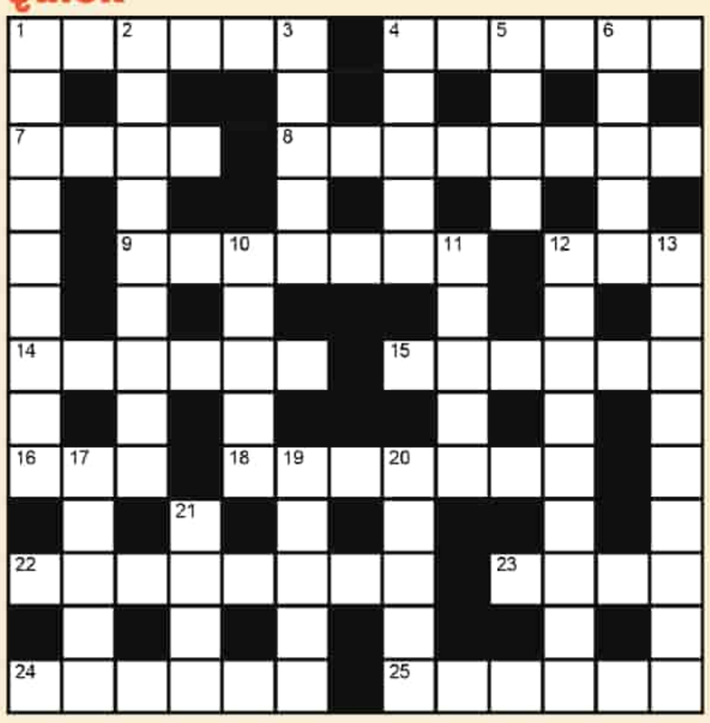
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Small measure for spirits (6)
4 Planks (6)
7 You in old English (4)
8 In a most pressing manner (8)
9 Deteriorating or corroding (7)
12 SA river ___ Grande (3)
14 ___ City: Bangalore of course (6)
15 Church officials (6)
16 Cable TV alternative (3)
18 Imposing, majestic (7)
22 Our former PM Dr __ Singh (8)
23 Cinderella's dance (4)
24 L in IPL or EPL (6)
25 Beds, strata (6)

DOWN

1 Disoriented due to plane travel (3-6)
2 The ___ ___ : Pearl Buck's Nobel Prize winning novel? (4,5)
3 Circular (5)
4 Commenced (5)
5 Kinswoman (4)
6 ___ Lama is spiritual leader of Tibet? (5)
10 Six-ball sequences (5)
11 Show the way (5)
12 Off the shelf (5-4)
13 Hurdles (9)
17 Irritate, make fun of (5)
19 American lake (5)
20 Musical; pertaining to harmony (5)
21 Polluted air (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: A EQUALS U

MDAC SDECGHN KDC MFZNC RFZ DCKQQB YGZR BZA OAM QZJC BZA KGBRKB

Linemaro

When I saw you, I understood what 'pretty as a picture' meant

Mindchow

Instruction does much, but encouragement does everything

Joke of the day

Anyone with money to burn will always find himself surrounded by people with matches

Loop

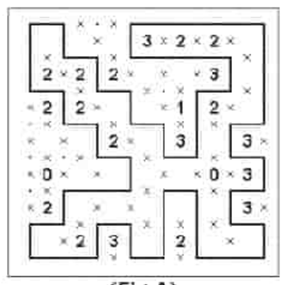
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

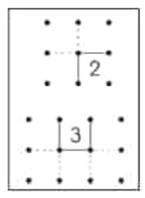
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

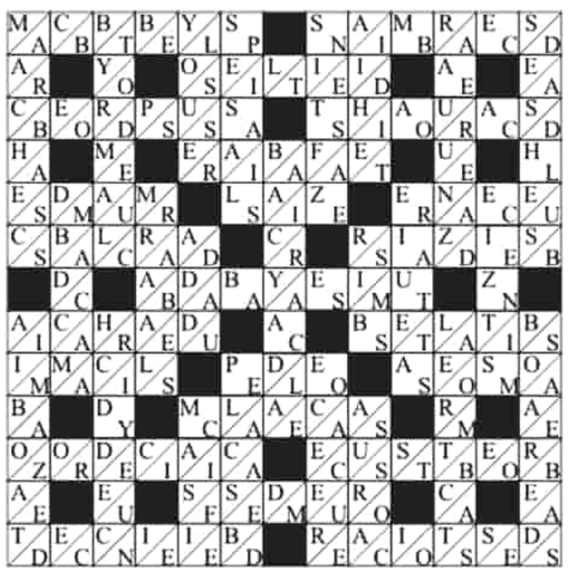


(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				Y

ACROSS

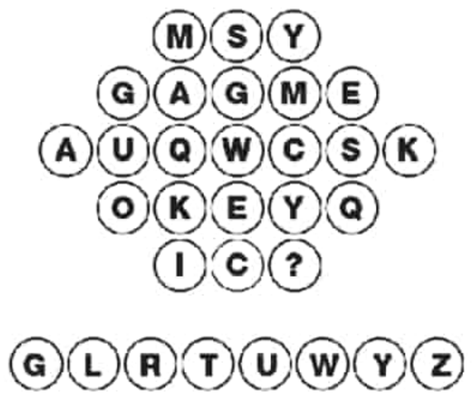
1 Kolas; 6 Lab IQ; 7 Lou in; 8 Ailed; 9 Abyss

DOWN

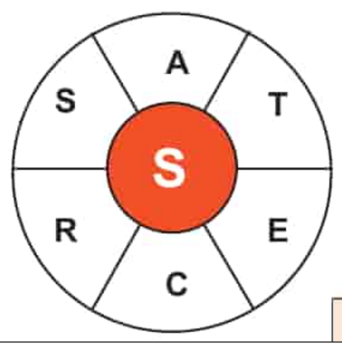
1 Quibs; 2 A kind; 3 Booes; 4 Salia; 5 Allyl

Mensapuzzle

Which letter replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

21 Average; 23 Good; 26 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

1	3							6
	5					8	3	
		6	8				1	
	6	4	2	9				
7			4		1			3
				7	5	2	9	
	4				8	6		
	7	5					2	
8							4	7

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 17

2 2 8 9

Medium = 9

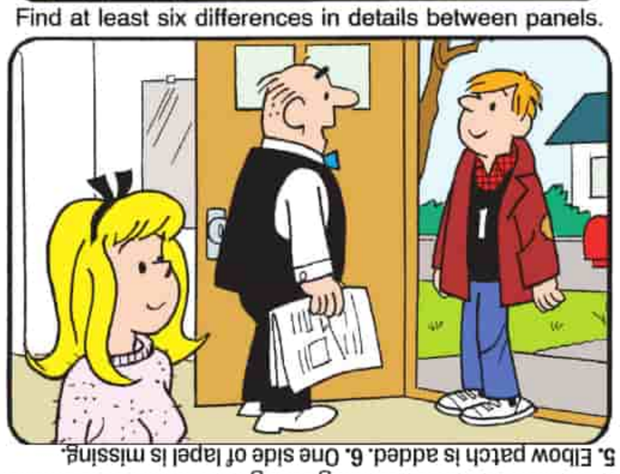
6 3 2 2

Hard = 9

2 6 7 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



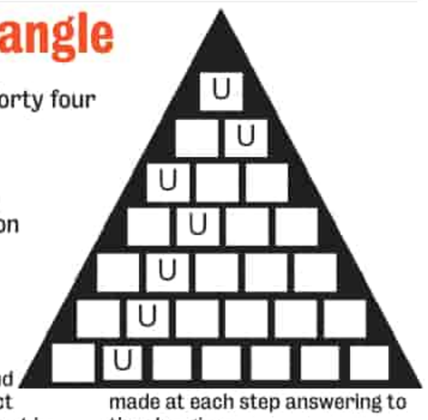
Differences: 1. Number on sweater is smaller. 2. Girl's collar is smaller. 3. Man is standing straighter. 4. Mirror is smaller. 5. Elbow patch is added. 6. One side of label is missing.

Riddler

What connects these four things? Baking, Origami, Laundry & Poker

Alpha triangle

1 Universal, abbr.
2 Atomic number forty four
3 Samovar
4 Devastation
5 Italian city
6 Hit the sack (4,2)
7 Changing direction



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft

DID YOU HEAR THAT MAYOR KANE WAS ARRESTED LAST NIGHT?
REALLY? WHAT HAPPENED?
HE WAS CITED FOR DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE.
YEAH... HE APPARENTLY FAILED HIS BUD ALCOHOL TEST.
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2-11

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, health concerns may cause restlessness. Try to manage your temper, as impulsive reactions could create tension. Avoid unnecessary expenses, especially on unimportant items, to protect your savings. Couples are advised to steer clear of trivial arguments that could lead to misunderstandings or breakups.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
You may meet a key individual who positively influences your career or business. This connection can strengthen your professional network and inspire innovative ideas. Investing additional capital into your business could bring future gains. You'll also likely be occupied with family gatherings and social events.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Your mother's health may improve, bringing you peace of mind. Recognition at work is likely, as your efforts begin to pay off. Social reputation may rise. However, a heavy workload could leave you fatigued and prevent you from attending a family event.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
A sense of satisfaction surrounds your work today. You may plan a short business trip and perhaps a spiritual visit to recharge. Guidance from mentors or elders can offer clarity and direction regarding your long-term goals.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
A dull mood may affect your focus—it's wise to pause and reflect before taking action. Be cautious while traveling, especially if it involves recovering money. Avoid adventure tours today. Students should focus on deeper studies to ensure success.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Home improvement or creative purchases may be on your agenda, enhancing your living space and social image. Investments in property or assets may be favorable. Romantic life looks promising—emotional bonds may grow stronger, and some may take meaningful steps toward marriage.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
A joyful day overall. Lingering health issues in the family may improve. Previously stuck finances might be released, enhancing your business liquidity. Incentives or rewards at work can improve financial stability. Job seekers may get help from friends or relatives. Students benefit from peer support in academics.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today highlights family matters and children. Positive news regarding your children's education may arrive. You may buy decorative items for your home or office to elevate your lifestyle. When shopping for valuables or household items, rely on wisdom rather than impulse.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Impatience may lead to mistakes at work, causing delays. Postpone investments in fixed assets for now. However, blessings from elders can help you recover from challenges. By evening, focus returns, enabling you to re engage with your responsibilities effectively.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Blessings from the Moon support your efforts today. Your energy and focus are high, leading to productive work. Subordinates may offer assistance, and a short business trip could prove fruitful. Positive news may come from a sibling. Renovation plans at home or work may bring out your creativity.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
You may effectively control impulsive spending, allowing for greater savings. Your creative flair shines both at work and home, earning admiration. Romantic relationships may get a boost with support from family and friends regarding future commitments like marriage.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Stressful situations are easing, bringing mental peace. Financial stability improves as you balance income and spending. Avoid excessive travel or overexertion to protect your health. Students should begin planning seriously for higher education. Lovebirds can enjoy meaningful time together.

KIDZONE

Agasthya Ajay Murthy, 7 years, NPS School

Arjitha, 8 years, New Baldwin International School

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
(1/5 - 1/6)^-1 ÷ (1/ 30/7) =
(6/30 - 5/30)^-1 ÷ (7/30) =
(1/30)^-1 ÷ (7/30) =
1/ 1/30 ÷ 7/30 =
30 ÷ 7/30 = 30 × 30/7 = 900/7

RIDDLER
They all involve folding

BULL'S EYE
ACTRESS, assert, asset, aster, carress, case, cast, castle, caster, crass, cress, crest, east, recast, rest, sate, scar, soare, scat, sear, seat, sect, star, stare, tress, tsar

FAST FIVE

S	K	O	A	L
O	I	B	L	A
U	N	O	I	L
I	D	E	A	L
B	A	S	S	Y

STRIKE OUT

A	B	B	E	Y	S		S	A	B	R	E	S
R	O		O	I	L	E	D		E		A	
C	O	R	P	U	S		T	I	A	R	A	S
H		E		R	A	B	A	T		E		H
E	D	A	M		L	I	E		R	A	C	E
S	A	L	A	D		C		R	I	D	E	S
	C		B	A	B	Y	S	I	T		N	
A		D		C	A	E	C	A		R		A
M	A	I	L		P	L	O		S	O	S	O
A	C	H	E	D		C		B	E	A	T	S
D	E	N	I	E	D		R	A	I	S	E	D

QUICK

L	E	A	G	U	E		L	A	Y	E	R	S
E	A	G	U	E		L	A	Y	E	R	S	
A	G	U	E		L	A	Y	E	R	S		
G	U	E		L	A	Y	E	R	S			
U	E		L	A	Y	E	R	S				
E		L	A	Y	E	R	S					
	L	A	Y	E	R	S						

MENSA PUZZLE
W. Start with A on the left hand side, and move in a clockwise spiral around the diagram. Letters advance through the alphabet in steps of 6.

QUOTE UNCODE
True friends are those who really know you but love you anyway

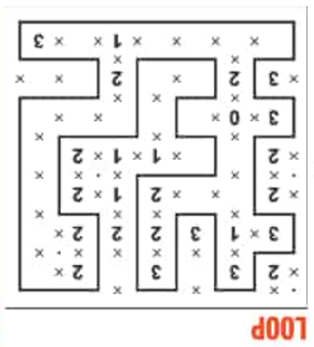
SUDOKU

8	1	9	5	2	6	3	4	7
6	7	5	3	4	9	1	2	8
2	4	3	7	1	8	6	5	9
3	8	1	6	7	5	2	9	4
7	9	2	4	8	1	5	6	3
5	6	4	2	9	3	7	8	1
4	2	6	8	3	7	9	1	5
9	5	7	1	6	4	8	3	2
1	3	8	9	5	2	4	7	6

ALPHA TRIANGLE
U, Ru, Urn, Ruin, Turin, Turn In, Turning.

GO FIGURE
Easy
8 + 2 + 9 - 2 = 17
Medium
2 x 6 \ 2 + 3 = 9
Hard
2 x 6 - 7 + 4 = 9

LOOP



KAKURO

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